

office he was then to perform, he imagined, it would be as little agreeable to their honour, to take the opinion of a slave, as it would be with his condition to offer it; but that this might be obviated and their dignity preserved, by making him free. This they allowed was highly reasonable, and immediately treated about the price of his liberty, and ordered the money to be paid to his master. *Xanthus*, tho' loth to part with *Æsop*, now found that he could not avoid it, and therefore making a virtue of necessity, rather chose to present *Æsop* to the commonwealth than to sell him, which the *Samians* were highly pleased with, and the council having returned their thanks to *Xanthus*, *Æsop* was presented with his freedom, on which he addressed them as follows,

‘ I am persuaded that it is scarcely necessary
 ‘ to tell so many wise men, that the Eagle is a
 ‘ royal bird: this bird therefore signifies a great
 ‘ king, and his dropping the ring into the
 ‘ bosom of a slave, who has no power over
 ‘ himself, is to let you know that you will
 ‘ lose your liberties, if you do not take a
 ‘ proper care to preserve them. Some potent
 ‘ prince has a design against you, and
 ‘ who

‘ who should this be,
 ‘ *Lydia*, who, you are sensible
 ‘ some great enterprised
 ‘ *Æsop* for the caution
 ‘ and then dismissed him

A short time after
 justified by the event;
 arrived from *Cræsus*, who
mians a tribute for their
 them with an invasion
 This affair being debated
 jority were rather for peace
 for running the hazard of
 a prince. However, they
 to a determination till
Æsop, who gave them
 to this effect: ‘ You
 ‘ you, said he, one of
 ‘ the path of liberty, is
 ‘ and rugged at the entrance
 ‘ plainer and smoother
 ‘ the other is the path of
 ‘ though it seems easy
 ‘ afterwards most rugged
 ‘ supportable difficulties
 these words, unanimously